no reservation in jobs for mentally handicapped persons, rehabilitation measures have been taken for the mentally handicapped persons through the National Institute for the Mentally handicapped and through Non-Governmental Organisations receiving financial support from the Government under grant-in-aid schemes.

Waiving the ceiling on the eligibility for payment of bonus to Industrial Workers

2431. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ceiling on eligibility has been waived in the matter of payment of annual bonus to Central Government employees;

(b) whether Government are considering to waive the same for the industrial workers also;

(c) if so, the present status of the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Wage ceiling for Group 'C' & 'D' employee; of the Central Government has been removed for Payment of Ad-hoc Bonus for the year 1995-96.

(b) to (d) Wage ceiling for determining eligibility for bonus has been laid down under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The ceiling was recently enhanced by amending this Act from Rs. 2500/—per month to Rs. 3500/—per month. No decision for amending the Act further has been taken so far.

Import of Coal by SAIL

2432. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by SAIL on indigenous and imported coal separately during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether SAIL imports coal from Australia at a much higher price then that available from Coal India Limited;

(c) if so the reasons therefor;

(d) whether CIL has recently hiked the price of its coal; and

(e) if so, the extent of restriction SAIL has imposed on purchase of coal from CIL and the extent to which that would put extra financial pressure on SAIL's import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The amount spent by SAIL on indigenous and imported coking coal including freight, taxes etc. during the last three years is:—

(Rs. is crores)

Year	Imported Coal	Indigenous Coal	Total
1993-94	1091.71	1095.88	2187.59
1994-95	1196.98	1161.36	2358.34
1995-96	1567.65	1164.35	2732.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) SAIL imports low ash metallurgical coking coal of prime quality as a qualitative and quantitative supplement to the indigenous coking coal to meet the total requirement of steel plants. The imported coal purchased by SAIL is also superior in quality as compared to indigenous coal in respect of ash percentage, from swelling index rank, etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The consumption of indigenous and imported coal depends upon the inter play of certain factors such as relative